

Town of Frederick Board of Trustees



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AM 2010-107

Consideration to Eliminate Town of Frederick Fishing Permit Fee

Agenda Date: Town Board Meeting – October 26, 2010

Attachments: a. Ordinance

Fiscal Note: A minimal amount of revenues will be lost and the costs of printing and selling fishing permits will also be eliminated with this recommended modification (see "Financial Considerations" section).



Administrative Services Director

Submitted by: Derek Todd *by nt*
Town Administrator

Approved for Presentation: Derek Todd *by nt*
Town Administrator

AV Use Anticipated Projector _____ Laptop _____

Certification of Board Approval:

Town Clerk

Date

Summary Statement:

Recently the State Department of Wildlife contacted the Town to request that the local fishing permit fee be dropped in order to encourage more recreational fishing at Milavec Lake and eliminate confusion regarding the state fishing permit versus the local permit fee.

Detail of Issue/Request:

The State Division of Wildlife (DOW) currently provides various services for the improvement of the fishing and fish habitat at Milavec Lake within the Frederick Recreation Area and feels that in order to increase recreational fishing and decrease the confusion between the state fishing license and the local fishing permit, the permit fee should be dropped. Many years ago, the Town of Frederick established a local fishing permit fee in the hopes of covering various maintenance costs associated with the lake, however the local permit revenues have amounted to very little and not nearly enough to meet their intended purpose. Further, visitors to Milavec Lake often express confusion about the state license versus the local permit.

The DOW has been extremely helpful in modernizing recreational fishing as an amenity at Milavec Lake over the last several years and has provided various services to the Town at no cost. The main service being provided by the DOW is the stocking of the lake with 10-inch trout each Spring and Fall. By the DOW's report, these trout are valued at \$1.38 each and the DOW stocks approximately 8,000 trout each year in Milavec Lake in addition to warm-water fish species such as bluegill, catfish, and walleye. The funding that covers these costs comes from State fishing licenses and the DOW feels that charging Frederick anglers an additional local fee discourages recreational fishing.

Legal/Political Considerations:

This Code provision is not well-enforced, has confused FRA patrons and Safeway staff, and there is less utility for day pass revenues since DOW stocks the Lake and assists with maintenance grant funds. As such, removing the local fishing day pass helps amend the code to match current operations at the Town.

Alternatives/Options:

Option A: Leave the local fishing permit fee in place. If this fee is left in place the Town will continue to have a need to print and sell the licenses each year and will collect a relatively small amount of revenue each year which may or may not cover the costs of printing the licenses and accounting for the collected fees.

Option B: Eliminate the local fishing permit fee. This will encourage the DOW to continue to assist in the maintenance and stocking of Milavec Lake, saving the Town thousands of dollars if the Town were to provide the same level of service provided by the DOW. This option will also eliminate the costs of printing licenses and accounting for the collected fees.

With either "Option A" or "Option B," the State requirement for anglers to purchase a Colorado Fishing License would still apply to those wishing to fish in Milavec Lake or any other location within the State.

Additionally, this action will not eliminate the requirement for those wishing to utilize non-motorized boats on Milavec Lake to purchase a Town of Frederick non-motorized boating permit from the Town.

Financial Considerations:

As mentioned in the Fiscal Note, the amount of revenues that will be lost because of the elimination of the local fishing permit fee is minimal. For example, in 2009 the Town collected \$509.11 in total licenses. Year-to-date figures for 2010 the Town has collected approximately \$850. In the 2011

preliminary budget, and previous budgets, staff has only budgeted for receiving \$450 in fishing license fees.

Staff Recommendation:

Eliminate the local fishing permit fee according to the attached legislation.